

Article -- Bill Barrett Corp. announces \$335 million sale of natural gas assets

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11/01/2012 11:33 AM

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Bill Barrett Corp. announces \$335 million sale of natural gas assets

November 1, 2012
By Howard Pankratz
The Denver Post

Denver-based Bill Barrett Corp. announced Thursday that it is selling some of its non-core natural gas assets including all Wind River Basin natural gas producing properties for \$335 million.

Included in the sale to an affiliate of Vanguard Natural Resources is the Powder River coal bed methane assets and a working interest in Barrett's Gibson Gulch-Piceance Basin development property.

The transaction is expected to close by Dec. 31, said the company.

"We are very pleased to execute this transaction with an affiliate of Vanguard Natural Resources, a step that is very closely aligned with our long-term objectives," said Fred Barrett, chief executive and president of Bill Barrett Corp.

"I would like to emphasize two key points leading to this transaction," said Barrett. "One, the monetization of non-core, lower growth assets is par of a prudent long-term strategy to optimize our portfolio and focus investment dollars in programs that offer the highest returns and best long-term results."

Secondly, said Barrett, the transaction pegs the pre-sale market value of the Gibson Gulch asset at approximately \$1 billion. Those proceeds, he said, will be applied to debt reduction.